



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077
Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the April 24, 2017, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: John Ellis, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Cynthia Ingelfinger and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Cassidy Wiley; Tiffany Martin, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member.

MINUTES

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017, 310-stream permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Montana Joint Mussel Response Team updates
<http://musselresponse.mt.gov>
2. Email: Whitefish Planning Board Meeting, April 20, 2017, Whitefish City Council Chambers <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org>
3. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) April 12, 2017 issue of *The Montana Conservationist* www.swcdmi.org
4. Email: Letter from Lewis & Clark CD regarding dues. Spring newsletter *The Explorer* <http://lccd.mt.nacdn.org>
5. Email: Letter from Valley County CD. They will not be hosting the 2017 MACD convention in Glasgow. Contact 406-228-4321 Ext. 101
6. Email: Aquatic Invasive Species Readiness & Response Summit, April 26 & 27, Holiday Inn, Great Falls. Contact Cascade CD 406-727-3603, Ext. 125,
www.cascadecd.com
7. Email: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) offers state-funded grants for the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Grant applications due Thursday, June 1, 2017.



- <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/caridd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species> or contact DNRC, Stephanie Hester, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 406.444.0547, shester@mt.gov
8. Email: DNRC Basin Water Supply Report, Water Year 2017. Contact Ada Montague, State Water Planner for the Clark Fork & Kootenai Basins, Staff for the Governor's Water Supply Advisory Committee, DNRC Water Management Bureau amontague@mt.gov (406) 444-6628
 9. Email: Aquatic Invasive Species Readiness & Response Summit, April 26-27, 2017, Holiday Inn, Great Falls. Contact Cascade Conservation District 406-727-3603, Ext. 125, tenlee@cascadecd.com
 10. Email: Judith Basin County Range School, May 25, Utica Community Hall, Utica, MT. Contact Judith Basin Conservation District 406-566-2311, Ext. 107.

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$262.69
2. FFE \$9000.00
3. MSU Extension Forestry \$300.00
4. VISA \$2465.77

Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the bills as presented." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP: Cassidy Wiley thanked the board for the college scholarship and spoke about the school she will be attending, her major and long term plans.

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICE FURNITURE: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve purchasing a lift table and three chairs as presented, up to \$1500.00." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPUTER: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "to confirm the phone poll to purchase a computer." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AC PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: The meeting was closed at 9:15 P.M. Discussion held. The meeting was re-opened at 9:20 P.M. Pete Woll made a motion "to take Cynthia Ingelfinger off the (6-month) probation period as of May 1, and to increase her salary to Grade 7 Step 2." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



TRUMBULL CREEK: Valerie Kurth gave the board a summary of the history and flooding issues on Trumbull Creek. Culverts on Olympia Way are undersized, and an old dam structure south of the airport collects water and attracts birds. The stream which was re-constructed on the Glacier Horse Ranch area is functioning well. Partnerships and potential funding (DNRC Renewable Resource grants) were discussed.

Pete Woll made a motion “to have staff gather landowners information along Trumbull Creek from Hwy 2 on the north end to the north boundary of Glacier Horse Ranch, for a landowner meeting.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ROLLING RIVERS TRAILER (RRT) AGREEMENT: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the RRT user agreement with Lake CD.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

GIS TAX AUDIT: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to verify the 2017 GIS audit was reviewed.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET: The March End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the March 2017 End of Month budget report.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, submitted the SNOTEL report for Friday, April 21, 2017.

STAFF REPORT: Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger submitted the following report:

Cost-Share Program

Current contracts: The late spring and wet weather has caused a delay in completing the current year’s projects, but I am optimistic that they will be done in mid-May.

Next year: We continue to receive inquiries about the program for the upcoming fiscal year.

District Office and Outreach

1. April advertisements: Cost share program & sandbagging 310; Cynthia is working with Andrew, Flathead Beacon, to get a 310 advertisement in the summer magazine issue.
2. Staff attended training on conflict and confrontation on April 3rd.
3. Valerie attended the Forestry Expo planning meeting on April 18th.
4. Cynthia created a one page handout for the Cost Share program for outreach purposes.
5. Valerie conducted Cynthia’s 6-month performance evaluation with the Chair and Vice-Chair on April 14th.
6. Valerie is learning to do payroll and trained with Ginger Kauffman on April 5th and 19th.
7. Valerie attended the Flathead River Commission (FRC) meeting on April 12th.
8. Cynthia attended the Flathead Basin Commission meeting on April 12.
9. Valerie continues to relay legislative updates from Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) to the board and staff.



Education

Rolling Rivers - Cynthia is reviewing the Rolling Rivers Trailer curriculum and has spoken with Summit Prep school about a visit on June 6. We are also planning to do presentations at Hedges school on June 1.

Partner events - Cynthia has been coordinating dates for education and outreach events later this spring with partners at Whitefish Legacy Partners, Whitefish Lake Institute, and Flathead Lakers, as well as a soil activity with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for Arbor Day.

Valerie gave a presentation on basic concepts of riparian health at a riparian stewardship workshop on April 22nd. The workshop was jointly hosted by Lake County CD and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), and it included a riparian planting on the Swan River.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) - Cynthia worked with Holly McKenzie on a PLT Spring into Nature Educator Workshop on Saturday, April 8. We had 30 teachers attend.

Natural Resources Youth Camp grant sponsorship - Valerie is helping Holly McKenzie review and compile materials for the HB223 grant application.

Community of Resource Educator's (CORE) meeting - FCD hosted April's CORE meeting and Cynthia joined the CORE website committee.

Seedling Program

The seedlings were delivered on April 20th. Angel Rosario and Tiffany Martin helped FCD staff with the pick-up at DNRC and order distribution. We had 8 customers and over 1400 seedlings this year.

Trumbull Creek: Ronald Buentemeier took Cynthia and Valerie on a driving tour of Trumbull Creek on April 7th. We met with Greg Price regarding flooding concerns on his property. Valerie is compiling information from earlier work in this part of the creek.

Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP): Valerie completed the final edits of the WRP, and Cynthia reviewed the document. We expect to submit it this week.

Website: Cynthia posted four new blogs (Seedling Pick Up, Education Grant, Clean Drain Dry and River Steward Workshop) and added content to the Staff and Board page. Please remember to turn in the answers to your board bio questions so we can launch the new version of this page.

We have a Google Analytics tool on the FCD website to monitor usage. Summary of usage from Feb 1st - April 20th:

- 543 users and 1,010 user sessions. 50% of users were new
- Average user visited 2 pages/session. Average number of sessions per day was 13 and highest day had 61 user sessions.
- 135 sessions were from mobile devices

Most visited pages: Home (950 views), 310 stream permits (119), Board and Staff (98), Additional Resources (78), About Us (68), Watershed Restoration (51), and College Scholarships (47).



MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S (MACD) REPORT: Pete Woll reported on the MACD Board conference call:

- Discussed membership numbers for both boards (MACD & SWCDM), the idea of contracting out bookkeeping, and slowing down the pace of expansion.
- Jeff Ryan's resignation.
- Several CD's have declined to pay dues.
- Convention may be in Bozeman this fall.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION (FBC) REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported the April 12th meeting agenda included a number of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issues, DEQ international targets, and a new Chair person. Next meeting June 9th in Pablo.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported the April 12th meeting agenda included several zone change requests which were forwarded to the County Commissioners with positive recommendations, and a public hearing for the Glacier Park Inc. request for a planned community.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: No report.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: The next meeting is scheduled for May 17th.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: Mark Siderius reported:

- Flood Forecasting & Flood Elevation meeting: Presentation by Ray Nickless from the National Weather Service, and updates from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on KERR and Hungry Horse dam operations.
- Flood Inundation Mapping Project meeting: Mapping work (Hwy 35 and north) should be live on the United State Geological Survey (USGS) website by the end of September.
- Foy's Bend gage, stream gage locations and upgrades were discussed.

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL: Verdel Jackson reported the 2-day conference in Missoula included approval of charter, election of committees, partnership models, budget/funding, reports, panel discussions and work groups.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONIES
- EDUCATION GRANT, HELENA FLATS TOUR
- BOARD TERM INFORMATION
- ERA OF MEGAFIRES PRESENTATION AT FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (FVCC)
- NEWS ARTICLE IN WHITEFISH PILOT - LORI CURTIS & SOURCEBOOK

The next 310-stream permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>5/8/2017</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
<i>(Date)</i>	<i>(Signature)</i>	<i>(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)</i>

